

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT New SED Policy Announced at Vorstand Meeting

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- At the meeting of the SED Vorstand in Berlin 4-5 May, a new Party line was laid down substantially as follows:

"The new conciliatory attitude taken by the USA and the USSR is the point of departure for all future political developments." (It was emphasized that this should not be taken to mean any change in basic Communist doctrine.) "The chief problem of the SED now as before, is the establishment of a united Germany. During 1946 and 1947, the SED tried without success to gain the support of the workers in Western Germany so as to be able to establish a Communist Germany. After this failure the SED organized the Volksrat to pursue the same objective. Now the SED has reached the conclusion that all German efforts are doomed to failure because of the opposition of the Western Allies. At this critical juncture, the USSR has seized the initiative and resolved to establish German unity through international negotiations. The USSR has made the problem of German unity its own and is prepared to make any sacrifice to achieve it."

- Grotewohl pointed out that, "the Russian willingness to lift the blockade and make other concessions will be interpreted as signs of weakness. It must be emphasized that, on the contrary, this new policy is the reflection of Russian strength and desire for peace. The West German state will play no role at the Conference of Foreign Ministers. If an agreement is reached at Paris, the USSR will be able to parade before Germans as the champion of a strong Germany. There is no reason to fear that doubts as to the honesty of the Russians will prevent acceptance of their proposals. Events and statements, even those of the recent past, will be forgotten in the general longing for unity and peace."
- The SMA has instructed the SED to abandon the motto "National Resistance", in favor of "National Front". The emphasis in propaganda is to be on unity rather than on attacks on Bonn and the West German state. "The latter are unimportant for the USSR will present proposals at the CFM that the other nations cannot refuse."

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